AEC
Australian Electoral Commission

Your official guide
to the 2025 federal election
SATURDAY 3 MAY 2025

VOTING IS COMPULSORY

FOR AUSTRALIANS AGED 18 YEARS AND OVER

Your vote will help shape Australia

Message from the
Acting Electoral Commissioner

This guide has tips on how to check information sources and how to make your vote count, explains what happens at a polling place and answers frequently asked questions.

We will have polling places open across the country on election day, as well as other voting options to support communities to have their say.

You can be confident that we're delivering the election with **integrity**, securing your vote at every step of the process – from the printing to the counting of your ballot papers.

The robust exchange of ideas is a part of election campaigning and I encourage you to carefully consider all information you receive, but particularly anything that questions our well-established electoral process.

Ask yourself if it's from a recognisable and reliable source. If the answer is no, my suggestion is to be cautious.

When you visit a polling place, please remember our staff are everyday Australians who are there to help you with the voting process.

Visit **aec.gov.au** for more information on how you can have your say at this election.

Jeff Pope
Acting Electoral Commissioner

MORE THAN **97%** eligible voters on the electoral roll

7,000+ polling places

500+ early voting centres

100,000+ temporary election workers

Stop and consider
Check the source this federal election

During the election period a large amount of information is distributed that is designed to influence your vote.

Information from different sources is a vital part of the democratic process. It gives candidates, political parties and others a way to communicate their policies and beliefs with voters.

However, some information may be deliberately false or misleading. It's important you carefully consider what you see, hear or read about the federal election.

Take the time to consider:

- **Where** did the information come from? Is it from a trustworthy media outlet or an official social media account?
- **When** was it published? Old information that is no longer accurate can be shared to make it appear like new information.
- **Check** if you're not sure. Artificial intelligence technology makes it easier to create false information about the voting process.

If you see something about the federal election process that you're unsure of, ask the AEC. This is particularly important with information you may see on social media and online. Go to **aec.gov.au/stopandconsider** for more information and short videos with helpful tips.

What happens at the **polling place?**

When you arrive at a polling place, a voting official will ask for your full name and address, and whether you have voted before in the 2025 federal election.

- Your name will be marked off the electoral roll.
- You will be given a ballot paper for the House of Representatives and a ballot paper for the Senate.
- Follow the instructions on your ballot papers to complete them correctly or ask a voting official for help.
- Once you have completed your ballot papers, place them in the ballot box.
- If you have used an AEC pencil, put it in the box on the way out.

Good hygiene is encouraged and hand sanitiser will be provided.

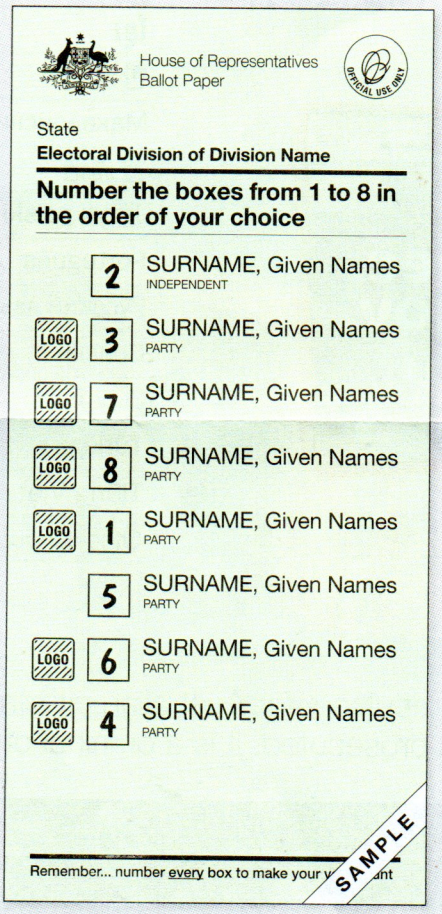
Our staff are there to help you.
Please be respectful.

How to make **your vote count**

You will be given two ballot papers, a small green one for the House of Representatives and a large white one for the Senate. **You must complete both ballot papers.** On the green ballot paper, you are voting for a representative of your local area or electorate in the House of Representatives. On the white ballot paper, you are voting for representatives of your state or territory in the Senate.

House of Representatives

On the green ballot paper, **number every box** in the order of your choice. Put the number '1' in the box for the candidate that is your first choice, a '2' for your second choice and so on until you've numbered all the boxes.


House of Representatives
Ballot Paper

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

State
Electoral Division of Division Name

Number the boxes from 1 to 8 in the order of your choice

	2	SURNAME, Given Names INDEPENDENT
LOGO	3	SURNAME, Given Names PARTY
LOGO	7	SURNAME, Given Names PARTY
LOGO	8	SURNAME, Given Names PARTY
LOGO	1	SURNAME, Given Names PARTY
	5	SURNAME, Given Names PARTY
LOGO	6	SURNAME, Given Names PARTY
LOGO	4	SURNAME, Given Names PARTY

Remember... number every box to make your v nt

SAMPLE

Sample ballot paper

Did you know you can practise voting on the AEC website? Go to **aec.gov.au/practise**

Senate

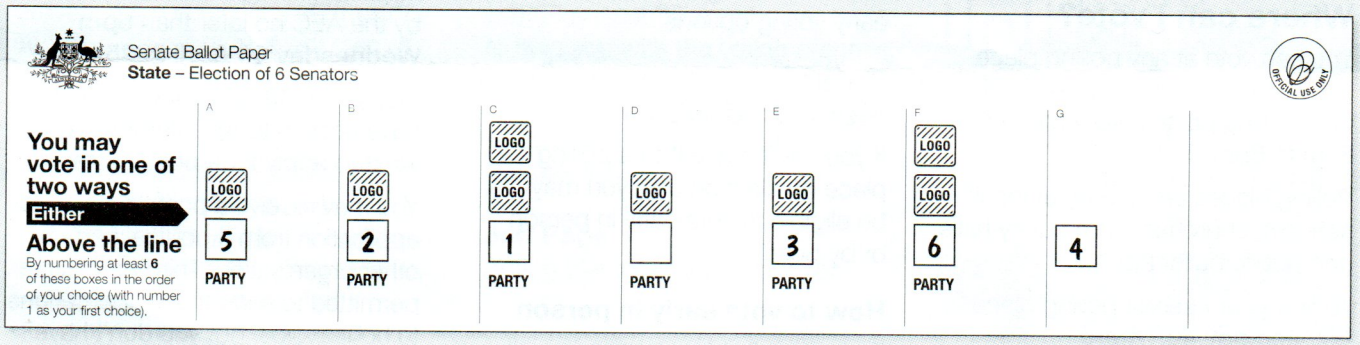
On the white ballot paper, you have a choice of two ways to vote:

EITHER

Above the line

If you choose to vote above the line, you need to **number at least 6 boxes**.

Put the number '1' in the box for the party or group that is your first choice, a '2' for your second choice and so on until you've numbered at least 6 boxes. You can continue to place numbers in the order of your choice in as many boxes above the line as you like.

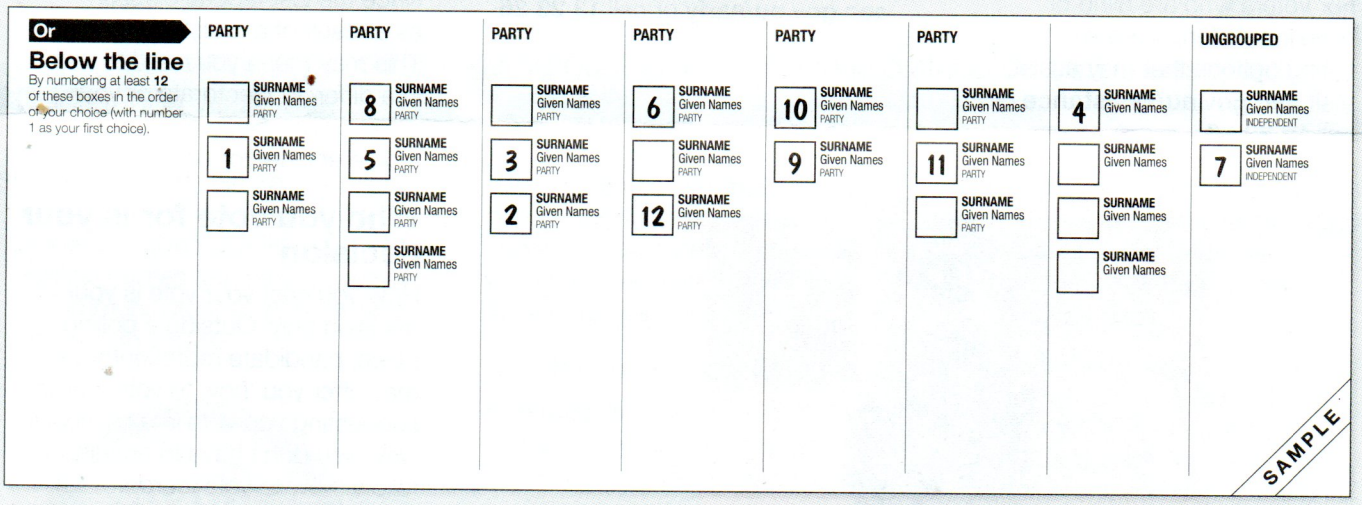


Sample ballot paper

OR

Below the line

If you choose to vote below the line, you need to **number at least 12 boxes**, from 1 to 12, for individual candidates in the order of your choice. You can continue to place numbers in the order of your choice in as many boxes below the line as you like.



Sample ballot paper

Don't worry if you make a mistake.
You can ask for another ballot paper and start again.

Election day is Saturday 3 May 2025

Polling places open at 8am and close at 6pm sharp

A federal election is held so voters can choose members of parliament to represent their views and interests in the House of Representatives and the Senate. Here are some things you need to know about voting.

Who has to vote?

All Australian citizens aged 18 years and over must be enrolled and vote in federal elections.

Where can I vote?

You can vote at any polling place in your state or territory on election day. Polling places are open from 8am to 6pm.

Polling places are usually at local schools, churches, community halls and public buildings.

To find your nearest polling place visit **aec.gov.au/where**

What if I need assistance?

If you have a mobility restriction or disability, or care for someone who does, you can check the accessibility details of polling places at **aec.gov.au/where**

For voters who are blind or have low vision, there are voting options that may assist. Visit **aec.gov.au/assistance** or call **13 23 26**.

What if I'm in another state or territory?

If you will be interstate on election day, you may vote at a designated interstate voting centre or consider early voting options.

What if I can't make it on election day?

If you can't make it to a polling place on election day, you may be eligible to vote early in person or by post.

How to vote early in person

If you are eligible, you can vote before election day. Early voting centres open from **Tuesday 22 April 2025**. Opening dates and times vary, so visit **aec.gov.au/where** to check the details for each centre.

For more information on early voting and eligibility, visit **aec.gov.au/early** or call **13 23 26**.

How to vote early by post

Postal voting is available to eligible voters. Check your eligibility and apply online at **aec.gov.au/pva**

Applications must be received by the AEC no later than **6pm Wednesday 30 April 2025**.

Please call **13 23 26** if you don't have access to the internet and want to apply for a postal vote.

You may receive a postal vote application from a political party or other organisation. Third parties are permitted to send these applications to households, but you don't have to use them. You can apply directly to the AEC for a postal vote pack.

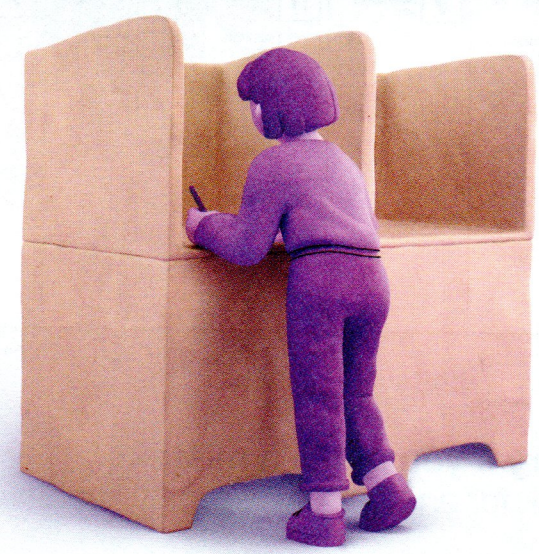
What electorate am I in?

You can check which electorate you live in at **aec.gov.au/electorate**

The name or boundaries of your electorate may have changed since the last federal election as a result of a redistribution. This may mean you need to vote in a different electorate or your usual polling place may be in a different electorate.

Who you vote for is your decision

How you cast your vote is your decision only. Outside a polling place, candidate representatives may offer you 'how to vote' cards, suggesting you vote in a particular way. You don't have to accept or follow 'how to vote' cards.



Have another question?
Go to **aec.gov.au/faqs**

Your official guide to the 2025 federal election
SATURDAY 3 MAY 2025

Alternative formats of this official guide

Accessible information

For voters who are blind or have low vision, this official guide is available on the AEC website in large print, e-text and audio files at **aec.gov.au/assistance**

These formats, as well as Braille, can also be requested by phoning **13 23 26**.

If you are deaf of hard or hearing, contact us through the National Relay Service (NRS). Use your preferred call channel and provide the NRS with our number **13 23 26**.

Auslan interpreting services will also be available. Visit the AEC website for more.

Translated versions

This official guide has been translated into 34 languages. Translated versions can be downloaded from **aec.gov.au/translated**

Telephone interpreter services are also available. For information about voting and elections, call the number listed next to your preferred language.

العربية	Arabic	1300 720 132
မြန်မာ	Burmese	1300 290 617
廣東話	Cantonese	1300 720 135
Hrvatski	Croatian	1300 720 136
دری	Dari	1300 290 618
فارسی	Farsi (Persian)	1300 290 619
Ελληνικά	Greek	1300 720 137
Italiano	Italian	1300 720 138
ខ្មែរ	Khmer	1300 720 134
한국어	Korean	1300 720 468
Македонски	Macedonian	1300 720 139
普通话	Mandarin	1300 720 142
Język polski	Polish	1300 720 143
Português	Portuguese	1300 720 145
Русский язык	Russian	1300 720 146
Српски	Serbian	1300 720 147
Español	Spanish	1300 720 148
Türkçe	Turkish	1300 720 149
Tiếng Việt	Vietnamese	1300 720 152
Other languages		1300 720 153

Voting is compulsory for Australian citizens aged 18 years and over. If you don't vote, you may be prosecuted. It is a criminal offence to vote more than once.

24-2017

aec.gov.au 13 23 26

AEC Australian Electoral Commission

Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner, 10 Mort Street, Canberra